

Offered: 4/7/88
Referred: Rules

5-0924N

Original sponsor: Kerttula

1 IN THE SENATE
2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33 (HESS) am H
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Relating to the labeling of irradiated
6 food.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS the exposure of food to radiation has been promoted by the
9 United States government for many years to prolong the shelf life of food
10 by killing organisms, such as insects, mold, and bacteria, that damage
11 food; and
12 WHEREAS over the past two decades pork, potatoes, wheat, and more than
13 60 spices have been approved for radiation by the United States Food and
14 Drug Administration but the irradiation process has not been widely used in
15 this country; and
16 WHEREAS on April 18, 1986, the Food and Drug Administration extended
17 its approval of irradiation to all fruits and vegetables and required the
18 labeling of food at the retail level with the words "TREATED WITH RADIA-
19 TION" or "TREATED BY IRRADIATION" and a picture of the international symbol
20 for radiation, a stylized tulip; and
21 WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration presently requires that
22 certain foods at the wholesale level be labeled with the words "TREATED
23 WITH RADIATION--DO NOT IRRADIATE AGAIN" or "TREATED BY IRRADIATION--DO NOT
24 IRRADIATE AGAIN"; and
25 WHEREAS the labeling requirements do not extend to food products that
26 contain irradiated ingredients, and the Food and Drug Administration is
27 considering removing the "TREATED WITH RADIATION" and "TREATED BY IRRADIA-
28 TION" retail labeling requirement before irradiated foods arrive in large
29 quantities on grocery store shelves; and

1 WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration states flatly that after
2 reviewing all pertinent data it has not found a reason to be concerned
3 about the safety of consuming food that has been irradiated within the
4 dosage levels specified by federal regulations; and

5 WHEREAS, aside from concern about the reliability of the Food and Drug
6 Administration studies, American consumers are entitled to know whether the
7 foods, and the components of the food, that they purchase have been irradi-
8 ated so that they can make their food choices accordingly; and

9 WHEREAS the long history of stringent labeling requirements for the
10 chemical additives and ingredients in food provides ample precedent for the
11 labeling of irradiated foods as irradiated;

12 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
13 the United States Food and Drug Administration to adopt regulations requir-
14 ing food whose components have been irradiated to be labeled as "irra-
15 diated" and to continue the current labeling regulations; and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that this resolution
17 constitutes the official position and commentary of the Alaska State Legis-
18 lature on 21 CFR 179.26(c)(1) and (2), which relate to the labeling of
19 irradiated foods.

20 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
21 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Frank E. Young,
22 Commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration; and to the
23 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
24 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-
25 tion in Congress.